many accounts, with a lot of money in each. Those she managed.

*

Gladys's shift change was brief. She wrote a note in the common log. No major problems to report. Everyone had had "meds" except Julia and Ellie. Julia I was used to. She'd get her "meds" from me when she got home from some bar around 2 A.M. I'd write my own note in the common log. Julia returned at 2 A.M. Client was steady on her feet. Speech was clear. Thinking seemed coherent. Staff gave client meds as usual. That was for Babs's benefit. It broke the series of entries stating that Julia came home "obviously drunk."

Ellie's absence was different. She'd been unusually anxious for cigarettes. She'd been getting one every even hour. She came to the office on the odd hours too, hoping Gladys would forget and give her an extra one. At 10:30 Gladys had looked out the big bay office window and seen her negotiating with a cabbie. Last seen wearing tight jeans and a T-shirt. It was snowing, and Ellie was bare-foot.

Right after shift change Ellie's mother called. Her daughter had arrived and she was sending her straight back. I was working in the kitchen when I heard Ellie's footsteps overhead. At least she must have found some shoes. I